

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems. Wisconsin has over 49,000 students enrolled in agricultural education, the highest number in Wisconsin's history. Half a million students across the country are becoming leaders, building self-esteem and preparing for career success. Behind each member is an advisor who works one on one with students to help them find their strengths, develop new talents, and match their skills and interests to a career area. Add FFA Alumni, business and industry supporters through the FFA Foundation, and the agricultural education community, and you have a team committed to helping young people succeed.

Agriculture is a huge business in the state of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin agriculture generates more than \$51.5 billion in economic activity. This includes the direct effect of agricultural production and processing that adds value to farm products. It also includes agriculture's ripple effect on the economy.

Here's how agriculture's \$51.5 billion economic impact breaks down:

- The direct effect of agriculture is \$28.6 billion and includes the sale of all farm products and value-added products.
- Business-to-business purchases create another \$17.6 billion in economic activity.
- Spending by people who work in agriculture related businesses generates \$5.3 billion in economic activity.

Every new dollar of sales of agricultural products generates an additional \$0.80 of economic activity in other parts of the state's economy. (Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics 2004)

Industry Support

Agriculture is the nation's largest employer, with more than 22 million people working in some phase. FFA prepares members for more than 300 careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture.

- 1,900 national sponsors provided \$8.7 million for FFA and agriculture programs and activities in 2003. (National FFA Foundation)
- \$1.7 million in scholarships awarded; 1 out of 4 FFA members that applies receives a national scholarship. (National FFA Foundation)
- At the state level over 750 sponsors provide over \$307,000 for FFA and agriculture programs and activities in 2005. \$15,750 is also awarded in scholarship money to FFA members. (Wisconsin FFA Foundation)

The three components of Agricultural Education working in combination - Supervised Agricultural Experience, Agricultural Education and FFA - provide FFA members with an advantage in the job market, in attaining scholarships and college enrollments, in starting their own business and in developing a plan for success in life.



Instruction

Rigorous and Relevant Learning

The agricultural education program provides a comprehensive yet practical approach to learning through three components: **classroom education** in agricultural topics such as plant and animal sciences, horticulture, forestry, agrimarketing, etc.; **experiential supervised agricultural career experience** such as starting a business or working for an established company; and **FFA**, which provides leadership and volunteer opportunities, fosters citizenship, and tests students' agricultural skills through authentic assessment.

FFA Organization

FFA Mission Statement

FFA is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA is a diverse organization, operating in rural, urban and suburban schools. Students aged 12-21 enrolled in agricultural education programs are eligible for membership. The FFA's 490,017 members and 7,210 chapters represent all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA's membership in Wisconsin is over 17,000, the largest Career and Technical Student Organization in the State.

Federally Chartered

In 1950, Congress granted the FFA a federal charter, making it an integral, intracurricular part of public agricultural instruction under the National Vocational Education Acts. The U.S. Department of Education employs two of the FFA top three executives.

Career Exploration

- Members participate in experiential work experience allowing them to apply knowledge learned in class.
- Collectively, FFA members earn \$4 billion annually through their work experience. (National FFA)
- Members participate and learn advanced career skills in 51 proficiency areas based on their experiential work experience ranging from food science and technology to agricultural communications to wildlife management to production agriculture.
- According to the FFA student magazine readership study, 87% of our students are interested in learning about career exploration, 81% about college preparation and 81% about technology. (National FFA)
- Through 23 national career development events, such as public speaking, environment and natural resources and meat evaluation and technology, FFA members utilize authentic assessment to test their industry knowledge.

Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)

An SAE program is a planned practical agricultural activity which supports skill and competency development, career success and application of specific agricultural and academic skills a student has learned through classroom instruction in agricultural education.

Four Basic SAE Types

- **Exploratory**
Learn about the 'big picture' of agriculture and its many related careers.
- **Research/Experimentation and Analysis**
Conduct research or analyze information to discover new knowledge.
- **Ownership/Entrepreneurship**
Plan and operate an agriculture-related business.
- **Placement**
Work for someone else either for pay or for the experience.